

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A display system comprising:
2 a display controller generating a plurality of
3 graphical elements representative of each available item
4 within a search pool,
5 a graphical feature of each graphical element
6 depending upon a relevance of the associated item to
7 specified criteria,
8 wherein the graphical element is updated in
9 response to any change to the specified criteria or the
10 search pool.

11 2. The display system according to claim 1, wherein
12 the graphical feature of each graphical element depending
13 upon the relevance of the associated item to specified
14 criteria further comprises one of a size of the graphical
15 element or a perceived proximity of the graphical element
16 to a viewer.

1 3. The display system according to claim 1, wherein
2 one or more graphical elements are representative of
3 multiple items within the search pool and serving as a user
4 control triggering expanded display of additional graphical
5 elements each representative of a subset of the multiple
6 items.

1 4. The display system according to claim 1, wherein
2 the graphical element is updated whenever the specified
3 criteria are changed by either adding, deleting or
4 modifying a search query element or updating a user
5 profile.

1 5. The display system according to claim 1, wherein
2 the graphical element is updated whenever an item is added
3 or deleted from the search pool.

1 6. A content reception system comprising:
2 a input receiving content and information items
3 regarding the content, wherein the information items form a
4 search pool; and
5 a display controller receiving search results
6 from a search on the search pool and generating a plurality
7 of graphical elements representative of each available item
8 within a search pool,
9 a graphical feature of each graphical element
10 depending upon a relevance of the associated item to
11 specified criteria,
12 wherein the graphical element is updated in
13 response to any change to the specified criteria or the
14 search pool.

1 7. The content reception system according to claim
2 6, wherein the graphical feature of each graphical element
3 depending upon the relevance of the associated item to
4 specified criteria further comprises one of a size of the
5 graphical element or a perceived proximity of the graphical
6 element to a viewer.

1 8. The content reception system according to claim
2 6, wherein one or more graphical elements are
3 representative of multiple items within the search pool and
4 serving as a user control triggering expanded display of
5 additional graphical elements each representative of a
6 subset of the multiple items.

1 9. The content reception system according to claim
2 6, wherein the graphical element is updated whenever the
3 specified criteria are changed by either adding; deleting
4 or modifying a search query element or updating a user
5 profile.

1 10. The content reception system according to claim
2 6, wherein the graphical element is updated whenever an
3 item is added or deleted from the search pool.

1 11. A content search and result display method
2 comprising:

3 receiving content and information items regarding
4 the content, wherein the information items form a search
5 pool;

6 searching the search pool utilizing specified
7 criteria to produce a relevance of each information item to
8 the specified criteria; and

9 generating a plurality of graphical elements
10 representative of each available item within a search pool,

11 wherein a graphical feature of each graphical
12 element depends upon a relevance of the associated item to
13 specified criteria, and

14 wherein the graphical element is updated in
15 response to any change to the specified criteria or the
16 search pool.

1 12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the
2 graphical feature of each graphical element depending upon
3 the relevance of the associated item to specified criteria
4 further comprises one of a size of the graphical element or
5 a perceived proximity of the graphical element to a viewer.

1 13. The method according to claim 11, wherein one or
2 more graphical elements are representative of multiple
3 items within the search pool and serving as a user control
4 triggering expanded display of additional graphical
5 elements each representative of a subset of the multiple
6 items.

1 14. The method according to claim 11, wherein the
2 graphical element is updated whenever the specified
3 criteria are changed by either adding, deleting or
4 modifying a search query element or updating a user
5 profile.

1 15. The method according to claim 11, wherein the
2 graphical element is updated whenever an item is added or
3 deleted from the search pool.

1 16. A signal comprising:
2 a plurality of graphical elements representative
3 of each available item within a search pool,
4 a graphical feature of each graphical element
5 depending upon a relevance of the associated item to
6 specified criteria,
7 wherein each graphical element is updated in
8 response to any change to the specified criteria or the
9 search pool.

10 17. The signal according to claim 16, wherein the
11 graphical feature of each graphical element depending upon
12 the relevance of the associated item to specified criteria
13 further comprises one of a size of the graphical element or
14 a perceived proximity of the graphical element to a viewer.
15

1 18. The signal according to claim 16, wherein one or
2 more graphical elements are representative of multiple
3 items within the search pool and serve as a user control
4 triggering expanded display of additional graphical
5 elements each representative of a subset of the multiple
6 items.

20. The signal according to claim 16, wherein each graphical element is updated whenever an item is added or deleted from the search pool.